

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURGH, MONDAY, FEB. 2, 1891.

CHICAGO AND THE FAIR EXPENSES.

The statement from Chicago that the official estimate of the cost of the Columbian Exposition is \$15,000,000 has a smack about it of a raid on the United States Treasury. The intimation is rather to the effect that the fair, if it is to be held, must be pulled together out of the pockets of the people.

REPRESENTATIVE PEOPLE.

MR. CLEVELAND is said to be so superstitious that he never writes a letter on Friday. QUEEN VICTORIA clings to some of the good old ways of speech. To her way of thinking a man who writes a letter on Friday is a man who writes a letter on Friday.

A LITTLE AT A TIME.

It is interesting to observe that Mr. Dingley of Maine, has introduced a bill in Congress prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia. Apart from the doubt raised whether Mr. Dingley has any hope of getting a bill passed which is introduced at this late day of the session, there is decided pertinence in the suggestion to him that he had better confine his reforming zeal to smaller contracts at a time. The national reputation would be more directly served by establishing prohibition within the Capitol building, if anything in that line is possible.

ELIGIBLE TO BE KEPT OUT.

It is to be devoutly hoped that the movement reported by the Albany correspondent of the Springfield Republican to secure the appointment of Thomas C. Platt as Secretary of the Treasury will not meet with success. This office was marked by Mr. Platt as his own at the time of President Harrison's accession, and the fact that it went to Mr. Wilson instead of one of the members to be set down to the credit of the President. The country has been trained by experience to endure the spectacle of the Treasury as a political machine; but it is not prepared to see it operated for that purpose so utterly to the exclusion of efficiency and care for the fiscal interests of the nation as Mr. Platt would. Until the leopard can change his spots, the New York political manager is to be set down as exactly the kind of man who is not wanted at the head of the Treasury Department.

THE FACT OF THE APPOINTMENT.

The Congressional appointment bill which was passed by the Senate last week, and is now in the President's hands, can be counted as certain of obtaining his signature and is therefore the appointment of representatives and electors which will be in force for the next decade. Although the increase of 24 members gives but seven of them to what are generally ranked as Democratic States, this is so nearly what is shown by the gain in population, as to be accepted as a fair measure of the national expansion. The suspicion that a political appointment produced some criticism when the bill was first reported; but full discussion has resulted in its passage as a practically just measure.

THE DEMOCRATS IN THE LOWER BRANCH.

The Democrats in the lower branch of the House have passed a bill repealing the compulsory education law that State. They refused amendments offered by the Republicans, removing the features of the law which were objected to in the campaign. The bill is a good one, and the Democrats are to be congratulated for their stand. The bill was passed by a vote of 150 to 100.

A REGULARY ON FIFTH AVENUE.

The fact that the present House is far too small for the intelligent transaction of legislative business is beyond dispute. Merely as a means of restricting its productive capacity of special legislation it would be well worth while to reduce the membership of the House to 250. When there were about that number of members in the House it was possible to do business with some approach to a clear understanding of what was done. As the House has grown in size, its unwieldiness has increased

in direct ratio, and its capacity has been in adverse ratio. During the past decade that body has been swamped by the exuberance, if not of its verbosity, at least of its fecundity in legislative proposals.

WEST INTERNAL COMMERCE.

In Secretary Windom's last speech, he surprised the New York merchants and bankers who were present at the conference by pointing out the fact that the canal, which passes through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, exceeded by 2,357,000 tons the entire tonnage of all nations sent through the Suez Canal; while the tonnage of the Detroit river was 2,468,000 tons more than the total tonnage of ports of London and Liverpool. This remarkable showing of the magnitude of our internal commerce has an intimate bearing on the importance of improving our interior waterways, and especially on the project of connecting the Ohio river with the lakes by the Pittsburgh and Erie canal.

THE COMMITTEE ON SILVER SPECULATION.

While it may be questioned whether these statistical statements will hold good in other than exceptional years, they are valuable as showing the immense importance of the lake traffic. Even by a railway haul, Western Pennsylvania furnishes a large share of the traffic that passes through the Detroit river, and a still larger one of that which goes through the Sault. If the canal was built which would bring vessels laden with ore to Pittsburgh and would enable them to return laden with iron, steel and coal, what an immense extension of that traffic would result! Beyond this, when we see what an extraordinary tonnage is produced by waterways which count an aggregate cost line of between one and two thousand miles, what infinite volumes of traffic would follow the improvements recently sketched by the special articles in THE DISPATCH, giving a total of connected interior waterways, with two or three outlets to the ocean, to be reckoned by tens of thousands of miles!

ELECTRICITY IN MINES.

There is a valuable suggestion at least, in the idea that has been revived by the Mammoth mine disaster, that the peril of gas explosion may be infinitely diminished by lighting mines with electricity. This system was first used in a Hocking Valley mine some two years ago, and has since been adopted in several coal mines and many of the iron and copper mines of the Lake Superior region.

THE BOSTON BOTTLE.

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SNAP SHOTS IN SEASON.

THEY seem to be something in a name after all. Jones has just been elected for the fourth time to the Nevada Senatorship. Brown recently got a Supreme Court appointment, while the best that has been done for him is a permit to one of them to run for Mayor of Philadelphia, as the candidate of a party composed exclusively of himself. This discrimination against a very large family may lead to future complications.

A CHURCH, where the congregation rises up, not to call the pastor blessed, but to cast doubts on his veracity, is in danger being ranked like the Oak Hill church of old-time fame, in the church militant.

IT IS HARDLY probable for the Boston Globe to say that Speaker Reed's discourtesy toward Mr. Lane, the Irish National member of Parliament, "has probably destroyed the small chance of his Presidential chances."

IF IT WILL take \$15,000,000 to set the Chicago World's Fair going properly, Chicago had better hustle to raise the \$15,000,000. That's the understanding on that the enterprise was located at Chicago.

WHEN YOU hear one woman tell another she is dying to see her you will not go far astray if you make up your mind that she was dying with envy.

ASTRONOMERS frequently go on starning tours.

ACTORS have to make up their forms and faces instead of their minds.

TURKIES are huffed men.

OUR MAIL POUCH.

Send the Name and Address.

To Old Subscriber, Beaver Falls, Pa.—If you will send your name and address to the business office of THE DISPATCH, your complaints will receive prompt attention. V. PITTSBURGH, Feb. 1.

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